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A True
A C C O U N T
Of a Bloody and
Barbarous Murder,
Committed on the Body of
John Sparks Waterman,
B Y.
John Hutchins,
I N

Fleet-street, near Serjeants-Inn London, on Wednesday
the 3d. of December, 1684. Between the Hours
of Eight and Nine, in the Evening of the same
Day.

As Also

An Account of his Apprehension and Commitment to New-
gate, where he now remains a Prisoner for the said Fact.

The many instances and those but too Fatal of Passion and Extrava-
gance, that so frequently happen in the most Populous of our City's
and Streets, cannot but be extreamly Remarkable, and most des-
ervedly Punishable by those in Authority over us: It being Common for the
Bully's and *Hectors* of the Town, upon the least Affront, or that which
they shall please to expound as such, to revenge the same with no less
then the Death of the supposed Offender: As if nothing but the Bloud of
a man were a Satisfaction it may be for an Innocent takeing the wall of,
or a neglectful stumble upon one of these Night-walking Gentlemen:
And this, tho we have the dayly Examples of such as meritoriously suf-
fer the Halter for such Crimes, and at their last Exit from the Stage of
Life give warning to others, to avoid those ill Courses that naturally in-
troduce men into such Murthers and Barbarities: Yet is the same neg-
lected by the Generality; and when their full Cupps have disordered them;
they grow enraged and confident, which their great Adversary the Divel,
so far incites, and forwards; that all Warnings and Examples of others,
is of no moment in their Considerations: But in defence perhaps of a
Pauirty

Poultry Whore, or a Punctilio of mistaken Honour; they think it no Crime, to pass through the Bowells of their Neighbour, or wade in his Bloud to accomplish their Barbarous and Wicked Passions. An Instance whereof, You may be pleased to take in the following Relation.

On Wednesday, about 8 or 9 in the Evening, one John Sparkes a poor Waterman, having by the Darkness of the Night, and Tarrying to make Water, lost the sight of his Companions that were with him; Running hastily to overtake them, chanced in his way Innocently to take the Wall of one John Hutchins who was then Picking up a Wench in Fleet-street, near St. Dunstans Church; which the said John Hutchins took as so great an Affront, that without more adoe he Drew his Sword upon the poor Waterman, who was at the same time without any Defence, so much as a Stick or any other Weapon in his Hand; and pressing him closely forward with a Volley of G— D---s (the usual Rhetorick of such Miscreants) he Run him quite thorough the Body, tho he used all the means possible he could to avoid him: And with one Thrust, Basely and Inhumanely Murthered him: Insomuch that he had only time to say as he was Falling, *The Lord have Mercy upon me, I me a Dead Man.* And thereupon giving a great Groan, immediately Died: Which his Wicked Adversary perceiving, began to take his Heels and run away as fast as he could down Ram-Alley; but being immediately Pursued though, they lost the sight of him; and that he had Cunningly thrown away his sword and scabbard to avoid the Discovery; yet as God would have it, thinking to get back again into Fleet-street, and mingling himself with the Croud the more easily make his Escape: A Porter standing at the end of the Alley to watch his return, whilst others were in close persuit of him, cried out, *that is the Man that killed him;* so that the multitude then pressing upon him he was soon apprehended, notwithstanding the resistance he made, and his endeavours to escape: And thereupon he was carried before the Right Worshipful Sir Thomas Jenner Kt. Recorder of the Citty of London; who upon Examination of the Fact, and the Evidence of three several men that see him draw his Sword and make at the murthered Person (notwithstanding the denial of the Party, who pretended himself to be extremely in Drink, and lavishing out his execrable and abominable Oaths against those that apprehended him) Committed him to his Majesty's Gaol of Newgate, where he is to ly til he comes to his Tryal at the next Sessions in the Old Bailey: At which Time I Doubt not but the Justice of God Almighty, and the Government we are so happy to live under, will overtake the Criminal, and set him up as an Example to deter others from Murthering the Innocent: It being what God, as well as Man hath enjoined; the Laws of Heaven and Earth both Corresponding therein, that *He that sheddeth Mans Bloud, by Man, shall his Bloud be shed.*

Upon the whole, it is our Duty to pray to the God of Heaven to preserve us from those Passions and Extravagances, that this, and other Criminals have but too often fell into: it being in the Nature of all men when God leaves them to the Violence of Temptation without his restraining Grace to do that which sooner or later, without a Just Repentance, will surely bring them to Destruction. which God of his Mercy prevent.